

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE LAUNCH BY THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF PALM BEACH COUNTY OF ITS ARMED SERVICES ADVOCACY PROJECT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the launch by the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County of its Armed Services Advocacy Project, ASAP, made possible through a grant from the Florida BRAIVE Fund at the Dade Community Foundation. More than 1.7 million veterans call Florida home, one of the largest such populations of any State. Palm Beach County alone is home to 1,200 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. The need for services for these people is tremendous.

This new project's mission is to provide civil legal assistance to active duty Armed Forces service members and veterans who are serving or have served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom and/or their families living in Palm Beach County. Specifically, the Armed Services Advocacy Project will provide legal advice, education, counsel, and representation with regard to pre-deployment, deployment and post-deployment issues, free of charge.

Legal services offered to personnel and/or their family members will include access to benefits, benefit denials, disability determinations, discharge matters, housing and financial issues, access to health care and mental health resources, employment rights and much more. Individuals may also receive assistance with specialized military issues including navigating the physical disability evaluation system, appealing involuntary administrative separations, defending inappropriate discharge, discharge characterization, or disability rating and filing claims for Traumatic Injury Insurance Under the Service Members Group Life Insurance, TSGLI.

The ultimate goal of the Armed Service Advocacy Project is to improve the lives of Palm Beach County residents who have served or are serving in Iraq or Afghanistan and their families through legal intervention aimed at providing safer living conditions, meeting medical needs or reducing the time and frustration involved in navigating social services and veterans' assistance systems.

Madam Speaker, I am quite familiar with the problems active duty and retired service members have faced with these issues. I am delighted to know that the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, an old and very trusted agency, has created the Armed Services Advocacy Project, and I wish them great success with their efforts on behalf of one of America's most beloved and respected populations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 830, H.R. 3854, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, on October 29th, 2009, I was absent for four rollcall votes. If I had been here, I would have voted: "yes" on rollcall vote No. 828; "no" on rollcall vote No. 829; "yes" on rollcall vote No. 830; and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 831.

COMMENDING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEOPLE'S UTILITY DISTRICTS IN OREGON

HON. KURT SCHRADER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. SCHRADER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Public Power Week 2009 in the State of Oregon. The history of public power in Oregon stems from a grassroots campaign of Oregonians in the 1930's who, due to their rural service areas, did not have access to electricity. They spearheaded an initiative and Oregon eventually passed a measure allowing for the development of publically owned and operated energy utilities.

As President Franklin Roosevelt stood at the gates of the Bonneville Dam and inaugurated the Bonneville Power Administration, BPA, these Oregonians finally had a viable option towards implementing their publically owned energy facilities. By the 1940's, four People's Utility Districts were formed across Oregon in Lincoln, Tillamook, Clatskanie, and Wasco Counties. By the early 1980's, two more were created: Emerald and Columbia River People Utility Districts.

Oregon's PUDs are a testament to the co-operation of more than 250,000 Oregonians who publically own and operate their energy company. Oregon's PUDs focus on renewable generation, conservation, and energy efficiency programs has resulted in over 90 percent of their power generated and distributed being green and renewable. This is quite an achievement. Today, Oregon's PUDs are thriving with green technology innovation while still providing low-cost rates and quality service to their consumers.

There are two PUDs that serve my district: Central Lincoln PUD and Tillamook PUD. I

would like to take a moment and highlight the excellent work they continue to do:

Central Lincoln PUD—Central Lincoln PUD, serving portions of Lincoln, Lane, Douglas and Coos counties, provides affordable electricity to nearly 84,000 Oregonians, supporting thousands of jobs in the tourism, fishing, and forest products industries. Central Lincoln has helped many of its commercial and industrial customers with long-term energy saving projects, including the Oregon Coast Aquarium in Newport and the Georgia-Pacific paper mill in Toledo. Central Lincoln is a platinum sponsor of cutting edge renewable energy and electricity storage research at Oregon State University's Wallace Energy Systems & Renewables Facility at its school of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. Additionally, Central Lincoln is enhancing its focus on conservation and energy efficiency, including the hiring of an energy services specialist, who will provide technical assistance and information to customers and the general public regarding practical application of a variety of energy technologies. Central Lincoln is also a recent recipient of a \$10 million smart-grid grant from the federal government.

Tillamook PUD—Tillamook PUD and Hampton Lumber's Tillamook Lumber Mill have a strong working relationship and have worked together on energy efficiency improvement projects for more than two decades. Tillamook Lumber, one of Tillamook PUD's largest customers, has always valued conservation, and has demonstrated its importance even through this rough economic downturn. During the spring, operations at the mill decreased from a 24 hour operation to one shift, leaving nearly one-third of its employees out of work. With rebates and assistance from Tillamook PUD, Hampton installed new motors and variable frequency drives in several areas of the mill, resulting in annual savings of over \$90,000. More than 40 percent of the \$486,000 project costs were paid through the Tillamook PUD/BPA rebate program. Tillamook PUD and the Port of Tillamook are also converting a very valuable asset from its famous cows into energy. In 2003, the Port constructed a centralized methane digester to biologically process the manure from 4,000 of the county's 30,000 dairy cows. The digester has the ability to produce and capture methane from the manure and reduces the amount of methane that otherwise would enter the atmosphere. The green power generated is sold to Tillamook PUD, powers approximately over 200 homes, and maintains more than 150 family-wage dairy industry jobs in the community.

Madam Speaker, while more than 70 years has passed since the establishment of public power in the State of Oregon, I am proud to say that they represent a spirit that I believe all Americans share: the spirit of community first. I honor them as they celebrate Public Power Week 2009 and wish them continued success in the coming years.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.